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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3494
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0944
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0098
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0894
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1003
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0861
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0829
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0542
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0745
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 2857

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SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR WILL NOT SUPPORT BELARUS CANDIDACY AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 58056

CLASSIFIED BY: Eleanor Nagy, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Exec, State.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(SBU) East Timor FM Jose Luis Guterres, just back from a two week visit to New York, told CDA April 7 that East Timor would not vote for the candidacy of Belarus to the UN Human Rights Council. Guterres stated that he had already instructed staff at the UN on the matter. The FM added that the UN Human Rights Council, which was designed to reform the UN's human rights body, had been a disappointment thus far, and that East Timor could not support a country with human rights problems such as Belarus for membership on the Council.

2.(C) Guterres noted, however, that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) would probably support Belarus. As a member of the NAM, this put East Timor in a somewhat awkward position, but Guterres said East Timor had made its position clear and that since there was a secret ballot, the NAM would not have a record of how its members had voted. Guterres himself had supported President Bush and the U.S. during his statements at the NAM summit in Havana, and would continue seeking ways to support the U.S. in the NAM. East Timor also saw its membership in the Community of Democracies and that body as a useful balance to the NAM. However, South Africa and India, while both democracies, had played a disappointing role in the NAM and elsewhere in not advocating strongly enough for democratic principles and values.

NAGY